

~~K. Liturgical~~ A ~~Small Prayer Book~~  
~~Common Prayer~~  
F O R M  
K O F

Common-Prayer,

F O R

MORNING and EVENING;

Fitted for the Use of CHRISTIANS of all  
Denominations.

To which are added,

Four plain and short HOMILIES.

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*Let us follow after things which make for peace,  
and things wherewith one may edify another.*

Rom. xiv. 19.

*That we may all hold the faith, in unity of spirit,  
in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.*

Common Prayer.

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Written on the Plan of the Authors of the Free  
and Candid Disquisitions, and now Published  
with the Approbation of several worthy Mem-  
bers of the CHURCH of ENGLAND.

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The SECOND EDITION.

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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**T**H E great design of the Christian religion, is to raise in us the heavenly dispositions of love, reverence and gratitude to God; of goodness and mercy to, and unity with one another; and of humility and purity in our selves. These blessed tempers, accompanied with a suitable practice, will fit us for the mansions of eternal peace and felicity.

To impress these amiable dispositions, and to inforce a suitable practice, is the main view of the author in this work: who has therefore carefully avoided every thing that

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might give offence, or occasion any dispute: and has endeavoured to compose it in such a manner, as to suit with every denomination of Christians, who own the scriptures for their only rule, both of faith and practice.

As the author is of opinion, that forms of prayer, judiciously drawn up, are of great use, both in public assemblies and private families; so he hopes the following performance may be of some service, towards the promoting serious religion among us: and may excite others of better judgment and superior abilities, to pursue, and compleat so useful a work.

*I have here added part of a letter, from some worthy members of the Church of England, who had perused the first draught of this work; since enlarged*

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*enlarged and improved, by the assistance of them, and others.*

“ These papers, after having passed through different hands, are now returned to the author, with great approbation. It is the opinion of those, who have had the opportunity of perusing them, that they may do service towards promoting religion, being drawn up with sincerity and piety, and fitted in a plain manner for the benefit of common understandings.

The author's regard to our public liturgy and the sacred scriptures, in framing these forms of devotion, is truly commendable; those containing a rich supply of all proper materials for such a design, and having a just claim to our attention and esteem, in all compositions of this nature: which will always be the more valuable,

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luable, the more they partake of the serious piety of these writings, and are enlivened with the peculiar energy and beauty of their expressions.

If the author of this work shall think fit to publish what he has communicated, it may well be hoped, that the integrity of his views, will sufficiently screen him from obloquies, and gain him approbation with men of candour and piety; whose approbation alone is valuable, when essays of this nature are brought to the test. Nothing surely can be justly objected to a design so harmless, so benevolent, and (as we think it) so likely to prove serviceable to the interest of religion; which ought above all things to be valued by those, who can discern its excellence, and are sincerely desirous of its progress. May not this humble per-

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performance be used with benefit, at least in private families? Are not pious and christian families, of whatever denomination, at liberty to use any pious and christian forms, such as they shall best approve? Family-piety, with concern it is observed, and to our shame be it spoken, is too much neglected. The neglect has long been attended with bad consequences, and may in time be attended with still worse. Finally, it is to be wished, that our fellow protestants in this kingdom, who secede from our established communion, would from henceforward lovingly unite in introducing public forms amongst them. Let not our little party prejudices prevail so much amongst us for the future, as they have too long, and too unhappily done hitherto. May the gracious  
God

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God of heaven forgive us all our past errors, shew us the light of his truth, give us hearts to follow it, and dispose us to be reconciled to each other, as much as possible, upon the foundation of christian principles, and of brotherly love and forbearance! Forbearance and candid sentiments will do a great deal towards union; but if union is not to be desired, if it be contrary to the design of our religion, or disagreeable to the precepts of its author, let it never be thought of any more by Christians.

The author will observe, that we have here forborne to say any thing about the Homilies. It is sufficient for us to say, in one word, that we judge them to be as useful, as they are plain and intelligible. We heartily pray, that good success may attend the whole, if made public."

MORNING



## MORNING PRAYER.

*Let the minister begin with reading some of the following sentences.*



HO can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from sin? if we justify ourselves, our own mouth shall condemn us; if we say, we are perfect, it shall also prove us perverse.

*Prov. xx. 9. and Job ix. 20.*

There is none righteous, no not one, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. There is not a just man upon the earth, that does good, and sins not. *Rom. iii. 10, 23. and Eccles. vii. 20.*

We all have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way. And if we say, we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our

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sins,



## 2 MORNING PRAYER.

fins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *Isa.* liii. 6. and *1 John* i. 8, 9.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, he retains not his anger for ever, because he delights in mercy: for he knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust. *Exod.* xxxiv. 6. *Micah* vii. 18. and *Psalms* ciii. 14.

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions: and enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Psalms* li. 1. and cxliii. 2.

Thus says the high and lofty one, that inhabits eternity, whose name is holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones, for I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth. *Isa.* lvii. 15, 16.

Come unto me, says our Saviour, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matt.* xi. 28, 29, 30.



## MORNING PRAYER. 3

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. *Isa. lv. 7.*

The soul that sins, it shall die. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, says the Lord, and do that which is lawful and right he shall surely live, he shall not die: all his transgressions that he has committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he has done, he shall live. *Ezek. xviii. 20, 21, 22.*

*Then let him read as follows.*

**D**EARLY beloved brethren: we are now assembled together, to humble ourselves before God for all our transgressions; to render thanks to him for the many and undeserved benefits we have received from him, to acknowledge his glorious perfections and infinite power, with our continual dependence upon him, to hear and attend to his holy word, and to ask those things which are fit and necessary, as well for the body, as the soul. And since the scriptures assure us, there is no man that sins not, but that in many things we all of us offend; but if

#### 4 MORNING PRAYER.

we truly repent of our iniquities, and confess them to God with a humble and penitent heart, and turn every one of us from all our evil ways, and lead a life of universal righteousness, goodness and virtue for the time to come; that then we shall obtain forgiveness of our past iniquities, and shall inherit eternal life, by the exceeding great goodness and mercy of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: Let us therefore with a sincere and humble mind, approach unto the throne of divine grace, with a just sense of our many defects and offences, and with a firm resolution to forsake our sins, and to reform our lives.

##### *The General Confession.*

**A**Lmighty God, our most merciful Father: we have erred and strayed from thy holy ways; we have followed the evil desires of our own hearts; we have offended against many of thy just and righteous laws; we have left undone many things which we ought to have done; and we have done many things which we ought not to have done; and have thereby deserved thy just displeasure. But blessed be thy name, thou art a God merciful and gracious, who desirest not the death of sinners, but that they  
would

## MORNING PRAYER. 5

would turn from their iniquities, and live ; and art ready and willing to forgive all those that truly repent and amend their lives. We therefore humbly beseech thee, O Lord, to give us a just sense of all our sins, to convince us of the beauty and usefulness of religion and virtue, and the deformity and fatal consequences of vice : that so hating every wicked course, and abstaining from every thing that is contrary to thy holy will, we may with a well grounded hope, intreat thee to pardon our past transgressions, and to receive us to thy favour. And may thy patience and forbearance with us, engage us to be more diligent and careful for the time to come ; may we from henceforth forsake every wicked way, delight in the practice of our duty, and amend whatever is faulty in our temper and behaviour ; that so leading a godly, righteous and sober life, and endeavouring always to do those things which are pleasing to thee, we may obtain eternal joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then let the Minister say,*

Let us praise the Lord.

*People.* It is our duty so to do.

*Minist.* Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and to be had in reverence by all them that draw near unto him.

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*Peop.* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, praise his holy name.

*Then let the following hymn be said by the minister and people.*

*Minist.* **I**T is meet and right above all things to bless and praise thee, O Lord, to glorify and give thanks unto thee, who art the only true God, the maker of all things visible and invisible, who upholdest all things by thy power, who art the supreme governor of the world, and to whom every thing is subject. Who art greatly to be feared, and worshiped, for thou art the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, whose power is unbounded, and who dost whatsoever thou pleasest in the heavens and on the earth, and none can say unto thee, what dost thou?

*Peop.* Thou art the King eternal, immortal and invisible, the only wise God, whose greatness is unsearchable.

*Minist.* Thou art perfect in wisdom and knowledge; thou searchest and triest the heart, and knowest all our thoughts; yea, all things are naked and open to thy sight, O God, neither can any thing be hid from thee; for the heavens and the earth, yea, the

## MORNING PRAYER. 7

the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, for thou art every where present; and in thee we live, and move, and have our being.

*Peop.* Whither can we go from thy spirit, or whither can we flee from thy presence, O Lord? who fillest all things.

*Minist.* Every good and perfect gift proceeds from thee, the Father of light, with whom is no variableness, nor shadow of turning: the God of peace, of comfort and consolation, who art good to all, and whose tender mercies are over all thy works.

*Peop.* Yea, there is none good, but one, that is God, who gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.

*Minist.* Thou art a Being of unspotted holiness, and of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, neither shall the wicked dwell with thee: but thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, showing mercy to thousands, and forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

*Peop.* Thou art full of compassion, O Lord, and hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

*Minist.* We bless thee, O Lord, for revealing  
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## 8 MORNING PRAYER.

ing to us these thy glorious perfections : but above all for thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who came down from heaven, and gave himself for us, the just for the unjust : he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, and by his stripes are we healed : that he might purify to himself a peculiar people zealous of good works ; and that all those who believe in him, and repent of their sins, may obtain forgiveness, and acceptance with thee, and inherit eternal life.

*Peop.* Therefore will we bless thee at all times, yea, thy praise shall continually be in our mouth ; for thou, O Lord, art good, thy mercy is exceeding great, and thy faithfulness endures for ever.

*Then let the Minister read a portion of the Psalms, judiciously chosen : and after that, the first Lessons taken out of the Old Testament in the same manner : which ended, let one of the following Hymns be said by the Minister and People.*

*Minist.* **O** Come let us sing unto the Lord, let us lift up our voice to the rock of our salvation.

*Peop.* Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and rejoice before him with a psalm.

*Minist.*



MORNING PRAYER. 9

*Minist.* For the Lord is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.

*Peop.* Let all the earth fear him, let all the  
inhabitants of the world stand in awe of  
him.

*Minist.* For great and marvellous are thy  
works, Lord God almighty, just and true  
are thy ways, thou King of saints.

*Peop.* Who shall not fear thee, and glo-  
rify thy name, for all thy ways are right.

*Minist.* Justice and judgment are the ha-  
bitation of thy throne, mercy and truth go  
before thy face.

*Peop.* Good and upright art thou, O Lord,  
merciful and gracious, ready to forgive.

*Minist.* Surely it is meet to be said unto  
God, I have born chastisement, I will not  
offend any more.

*Peop.* That which I see not, teach thou  
me: I have done iniquity, but I will do so  
no more.

*Minist.* Thy word, O Lord, will I lay  
up in my heart, that I may not sin against  
thee: I will meditate upon thy precepts, and  
have respect unto all thy commandments.

*Peop.* I will delight in thy statutes, and  
will not forget thy word.

*Minist.* The righteous Lord loves righte-  
ousness, his countenance beholds the upright.

*Peop.*

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*Peop.* The prayer of the upright is his delight, but the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to him.

*Minist.* Therefore if sinners entice us, let us not consent, but refrain our feet from their path, neither desire to be with them.

*Peop.* Lest we learn their ways, and get a snare to our souls.

*Minist.* Now to God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.

*Peop.* Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be to him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.

*Or this.*

*Minist.* **B**Lessed is the man that fears the Lord, that delights greatly in his commandments.

*Peop.* Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with their whole heart.

*Minist.* The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers.

*Peop.* Yea, the Lord takes pleasure in them that fear him; and such as are upright in the way, are his delight.

*Minist.* The Lord is nigh unto them that  
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## MORNING PRAYER. II

are of a humble heart, and saves such as are of a contrite spirit.

*Peop.* As a man chastens his son, so the Lord our God chastens us, that he may humble us, and prove us, and fit us for eternal life.

*Minist.* He searches the heart, and tries the children of men, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts.

*Peop.* If we seek him, he will be found of us; but if we forsake him, he will cast us off for ever.

*Minist.* Thou art not a God, that hast pleasure in wickedness; thou abhorrest wicked and deceitful men.

*Peop.* The hypocrite shall not stand in thy presence, O Lord; thou hatest all the workers of iniquity.

*Minist.* Thou wilt cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things.

*Peop.* And whoso privately slanders his neighbour, him wilt thou destroy.

*Minist.* Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou us, O Lord, from every secret fault.

*Peop.* Keep back thy servants also from wilful sins; let not evil habits have dominion over us.

*Minist.* May our lives and actions, the words

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words of our mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our redeemer.

*Peop.* Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us.

*Minist.* Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think.

*Peop.* Unto him be glory in the church by Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

*Then let the Minister read the second lesson out of the New Testament, judiciously chosen. And after that, let one of the following exhortations be said by the Minister and People.*

*Minist.* **M**Y brethren, the Christian Religion requires us in the first place, to believe in the Lord our God; for without faith it is impossible to please him. But at the same time we must remember, that faith without works is dead.

*Peop.* He that comes to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

*Minist.* Let us add therefore to our faith, virtue; to virtue, knowledge; to knowledge temperance; to temperance, patience; and

## MORNING PRAYER. 13

and to patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity : that we may not be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Peop.* For he that wants these things, is blind ; but if we do these things we shall never fall : therefore let us give all diligence to make our calling and election sure.

*Minist.* Let us worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, and turn not to idols, which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk : but let us flee from all idolatry, and the worship of angels, and serve the living and the true God.

*Peop.* For no idolater shall inherit the kingdom of God.

*Minist.* Let us fear the Lord, and stand in awe of him ; for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And let none of us swear falsely, or take his name in vain : but let us serve him with reverence and godly fear, for none can deliver out of his hand.

*Peop.* Let us therefore fear to offend him, who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

*Minist.* Let us seek the Lord with our whole heart, walk humbly before him, and put our trust in him ; acknowledging him in all our ways, and patiently submitting ourselves to his will in all things.

C

*Peop.*

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*Peop.* Yea, let us trust in the Lord at all times, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

*Minist.* Let us diligently hearken to the voice of our God, to walk in the ways which he has commanded us; but let us be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves; for whosoever obeys not the word of the Lord shall be destroyed.

*Peop.* For not the hearers of the law are just before God; but the doers of the law shall be justified.

*Minist.* Let us also love the Lord our God with all our heart, our soul and strength; for the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth to such as keep his commandments, and walk before him with a willing and a perfect mind. Let us therefore be thankful unto him, glorify him in all things, and praise him for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

*Peop.* For the Lord is just and good; his ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace.

*Or this.*

*Minist.* **M**Y brethren, the Christian Religion commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves, to be just and upright

## MORNING PRAYER. 15

upright in all things, to do no wrong nor oppress any one: but that all things whatsoever we would that men should do to us, we should do even so to them.

*Peop.* For as we do to others, so shall it be done unto us; our reward shall return upon our own heads.

*Minist.* Love suffers long, and is kind; love envies not, boasts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, is not easily provoked, but endures all things; wherefore let us put on love, which is the bond of perfection; for if we love one another, God dwells in us.

*Peop.* But he that loves not his brother, knows not God, for God is love.

*Minist.* Let us then be kind and compassionate, and put on bowels of mercy, with goodness and humbleness of mind; being long-suffering, and forgiving one another, if any man have a complaint against his neighbour. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that shews no mercy; and with what measure we mete, it shall be measured to us again.

*Peop.* And if we forgive not men their trespasses, neither will God forgive us our trespasses.

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*Minist.* Let there be no divisions among us, but let us bear with one another in love, endeavouring as much as in us lies, to live peaceably with all men: and let us put away envy and strife, emulation and variance, with all bitterness and wrath, hatred and evil-speaking.

*Peop.* For they who do such things, are unfit for a kingdom of peace and love.

*Minist.* Let us therefore remove far from us a froward heart, and perverse lips; neither let us be too ready to judge another, for with what judgment we judge, we shall be judged. But more especially let none of us bear false witness against our neighbour, nor accuse any one falsely. Neither let us flatter our brother, nor lie one to another; but speak the truth always, and lay aside all hypocrisy and deceit.

*Peop.* For lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal truly are his delight.

*Minist.* Let us also be slow to anger, neither let the sun go down upon our wrath; for he that is slow to anger, is better than the mighty, and he that rules his spirit, better than he that takes a city. And if any one among us seems to be religious, and bridles

not



## MORNING PRAYER. 17

not his tongue, he deceives his own heart, and his religion is vain.

*Peop.* And whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause, is in danger of the Judgment.

*Then let the Minister read the following prayers.*

**A** Almighty and ever living God, our creator and governor, our lawgiver and judge: who hast strictly commanded us to obey thy laws, and hast caused the holy scriptures to be written for our instruction. We acknowledge the righteousness and equity of all thy ways, and that thy laws are the dictates of perfect wisdom, the effects of infinite goodness and mercy, and designed for our eternal and unspeakable happiness. Enable us therefore, we beseech thee, rightly to understand our duty, and graciously assist us in our careful endeavours to perform it. May we abstain from every thing that is contrary to our religion, and form our minds to the blessed temper and disposition which thy gospel commands.

May we consider thee as the greatest and the best of Beings, and look up to thee with joy, as the author of all good; fearing to offend thee, and diligently living according

## 18 MORNING PRAYER.

to thy precepts, remembring that thou art continually with us, and observeſt all our actions. May we therefore learn to put our whole truſt in thee, to reſign ourſelves to thy wiſe Providence, and to ſerve thee in holineſs and purity of life, to thy honour and glory, and our eternal advantage.

May we alſo do to all men, as we deſire they ſhould do to us ; being juſt, honeſt and upright in all our dealings, free from lying, deceit and falſehood, hating all manner of theft and injuſtice, and deteſting all violence, oppreſſion and extortion, with every mean and baſe method of over-reaching another. And may we perform all the duties of love and benevolence, and improve in every kind diſpoſition, being full of goodneſs, mercy and compaſſion, and endeavouring to live peaceably with all men: and may we baniſh from our breaſt, all hatred, envy and malice. And as we are all of us too often guilty of offending thee, O God, and alſo our fellow creatures, may we learn to be long-ſuffering, forbearing one another in love, ready to forgive each other his offences, remembring always, it is only upon this condition that thou haſt promiſed to forgive us.

We further pray thee, O Lord, to aſſiſt us in our endeavours to bring our paſſions and



## MORNING PRAYER. 19

and appetites under the government of reason and religion: may we bridle our tongues, guard against anger and every unbecoming heat, avoid strife, contention and quarrels, rule our own spirit, and attain a truly peaceable and quiet temper. May we detest all sensuality and unlawful lusts, carefully abstain from fornication and adultery, hate every wicked way, and be chaste and modest in our conversation and behaviour. May we avoid all covetousness and selfish desires on the one hand, and all extravagance and folly on the other, and walk in the middle and perfect way. May we put away all pride and haughtiness, and the love of vain-glory; and be meek and humble, contented with our condition, sober and temperate in all things; endeavouring to employ our time well, and to acquire good and virtuous habits; using great moderation in our pleasures and enjoyments, as Christians, who desire not the pomp and vanities of this world, but whose affections are set upon heavenly and eternal things; as knowing, that the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are quite contrary to the love of God.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our petitions, pardon our great unworthiness and our many failings and infirmities, and reward us not  
according

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according to our iniquities ; but spare us, good Lord, and lift up the light of thy countenance upon us. Enable us to fulfil all our good designs : and may both the hopes of that eternal happiness which thou hast promised to the good and obedient ; and the dread and fear of those terrible torments and that unspeakable misery, with which thou wilt punish the disobedient and wicked, make us always endeavour carefully to obey thy commands, to have our heart and soul devoted to thy will, and to make thy holy and reasonable laws the rule of our lives and actions.

We also intreat thee, O Lord, to extend thy mercy to these nations ; make us a holy and a happy people, and may true religion and virtue flourish among us. Preserve us from storms and earthquakes, from war, sedition and tumults, from plague, sickness and famine : give us kindly seasons for the producing the fruits of the earth ; and may our cattle be healthy, and fit for our food and service.

Moreover, as thou art the Creator of all men, we further beseech thee for all mankind ; that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy salvation and truth unto all nations : put an end to all idolatry,

## MORNING PRAYER. 21

idolatry, superstition and persecution for righteousness sake: may thy kingdom come; may Christianity in it's original purity and simplicity universally prevail, and may all those who call themselves Christians, be careful to adorn their profession by a suitable life and conversation. Lead us all into the way of truth, and deliver us from all uncharitableness to one another; may we hold the faith in the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life: which we humbly implore in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for the King, and Royal Family.*

**A**Lmighty God, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. We humbly beseech thee to bless with thy favour thy servant **GEORGE** our king. Give him wisdom and understanding to govern well; may he rule with justice and equity, discourage all immorality and vice, and endeavour faithfully to discharge the duties of that high station, in which thy Providence has placed him, by carefully pursuing the good and happiness of the people committed to his care; and may all his subjects love and chearfully obey him, and render him the honour and subjection which is due to him. Bless him with  
health

## 22 MORNING PRAYER.

health and long life, with peace and prosperity, be his defender and preserver, giving him the victory over all his unjust enemies. Incline him by thy Holy Spirit, to live in thy fear, to seek thy honour and glory, and to make it the great concern and business of his life, to recommend religion and virtue by his example, and to promote it by his influence over others. May he also remember, that he who rules over men, must be just himself, ruling in the fear of the Lord; and that this life will soon pass away, and therefore he ought so to conduct himself according to thy laws, that he may hereafter attain everlasting joy and felicity.

Bless also we beseech thee, their Royal Highnesses GEORGE Prince of WALES, the Princess Dowager of WALES, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Royal Family. Give them health and happiness, and prosper them in all their righteous undertakings. Enable them also by thy kind assistance to lead godly, righteous and virtuous lives; and may they always consider that with thee there is no respect of Persons; and that therefore it becomes them to walk carefully before thee in thy fear, and to obey all thy holy laws; that so at length they may come to thy everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

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## MORNING PRAYER. 23

### *A Prayer for the Clergy and Magistrates.*

**A**Lmighty and most bountiful Lord our God, send down, we beseech thee, upon our bishops and pastors, the gracious influences of thy Holy Spirit, to guide them in their sincere enquiries after useful knowledge, and to assist them in the right understanding of thy holy word: give them the spirit of unity and concord, of peace and charity: and may they by their holy lives, and good instructions, successfully recommend thy true religion to the practice of others, be the means of turning sinners from their evil ways, and of strengthening the obedient and faithful.

Send down also thy blessing upon the magistrates, and all that are in authority in these lands; may our judges and rulers be such as are just and upright, fearing God, men of truth and sincerity, hating covetousness and corruption: give them a wise and understanding heart, and may they rule in their several stations with righteousness and equity, that under their administration we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all sobriety and honesty.

[ *We*

## 24 MORNING PRAYER.

\* This is to be read only during the session of Parliament. [ \* We further beseech thee for the High court of Parliament, under our King at this time assembled, that it would please thee to direct all their consultations to the general good and safety of these kingdoms, that religion and virtue, justice and peace may be established among us to all generations.] all which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*A Prayer for the performance of relative duties.*

**M**OST great and ever blessed Lord our God; since it has pleased thee to place men in different conditions in this life; we intreat thee to assist every one of us, to perform those particular duties which our station here requires of us. May such as are rich, and in high rank, be careful wisely to improve the talents thou hast committed to them, despising no one, but being rich in good works, and setting good examples of piety and thankfulness to thee, of justice and goodness to others, and of virtue and temperance in themselves. And may those that are in low ranks be humble and modest, diligent in their respective employments, honest, just and faithful in all things, and contented with their station. May such as



## MORNING PRAYER. 25

are in the married state be true and faithful to each other, live together in mutual love and friendship, and be a real comfort and happiness to one another. May parents love and carefully instruct their children, bringing them up in the fear of the Lord. And may children honour and obey their parents, be subject unto them, and pay the just returns of love and gratitude. May masters be just and kind to their servants, knowing that they themselves have a master in heaven: and may servants obey their masters with all readiness, honesty and fidelity. And may all others, in whatever relation they stand to others, endeavour diligently and faithfully to discharge the duties arising from it, which we implore through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for the Afflicted.*

**O** GOD, the creator and preserver of all mankind; we humbly recommend to thy fatherly goodness, all those that are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body or estate; [*\* particularly those for whom our prayers are desired;*] beseeching thee to strengthen the weak, to deliver them that are tempted, to help such as are in danger, to provide for the poor, to give ease

*\* This is to be said only when any desire their prayers.*

## 26 MORNING PRAYER.

to those that are in pain, and health to the sick, and to comfort and relieve all that are afflicted, according to their several necessities; especially those that suffer for righteousness sake; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy deliverance out of all their afflictions.

Give us also thy servants friendly and charitable dispositions, ready chearfully to assist and relieve all that are distressed to the utmost of our power. And may we learn to be of a patient spirit, that under all the dispensations of thy wise Providence towards ourselves, we may be resigned to thy will. We ask all through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *A General Thanksgiving.*

**A**lmighty God, the father of all mercies: we thine unworthy servants give thee our most humble and hearty thanks, for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men; [ \* par-

\* This is to be read only when any desire to return their thanks.

*ticularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies granted unto them.]* We bless thee for our creation, and for that reason and understanding with which thou hast endowed us; for thy kind protection from the many



# MORNING PRAYER. 27

many dangers to which we have been exposed, for all the blessings of this life, and for thy patience and forbearance with us, though we have provoked thee by our sins and transgressions. But above all we praise thee for thy exceeding great love and goodness in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of obtaining thy favour, and the hopes of eternal glory revealed to us by him. We bless thee for his holy and unblameable life, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps. We praise thee for those heavenly doctrines which he taught, and for the numerous miracles which he performed; and especially for his resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven, to confirm the truth of what he taught. We desire also to bless thee for the light of thy gospel still continued among us, and for our deliverance from popery, superstition and slavery. May such a due sense of all thy mercies dwell upon our minds, that our hearts may be truly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 28 MORNING PRAYER.

*The concluding Prayer.*


**M**OST gracious God; who hast safely brought us to this day; we beseech thee to take us under thy protection, and to preserve us from every evil and danger to which we are exposed; and according to thy great goodness to give us those things which are needful for us, and such a portion of health, peace and prosperity, as thou in thy wisdom knowest to be best for us: in all these petitions resigning ourselves to thy will, intreating thee to grant us those things which are good for us, and to deny us those things which would be hurtful to us. And as we are exposed to many and great trials in this life; graciously assist us to overcome the temptations of this world, the flesh and the devil, and be thou our constant guide and support. And may the sense of the shortness of our continuance here, and the uncertainty of the time of our death, make us careful to pursue a holy and righteous life, that we may be always prepared for our great change: and being fully convinced of the reasonableness and equity of thy laws, may we with all readiness and cheerfulness of mind, conform our lives to thy righteous will; and make those amiable dispositions and habits  
the

# MORNING PRAYER. 29

the delight of our souls here, which will be our constant exercise hereafter, among the glorious and happy company of pure and upright minds. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, through whose mediation we approach thee, as

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; may thy kingdom come; may thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: give us day by day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**T**HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*



## EVENING PRAYER.

*Let the Minister begin with reading some of the following sentences.*

**W**ILL God indeed dwell on the earth? behold the heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. Yet have thou respect unto the prayers of thy servants, and to their supplications, O Lord our God, to hearken unto the prayer, which thy servants pray unto thee, this day.  
*1 Kings viii. 27, 28.*

Wherewith shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the High God? he has shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of thee; but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? *Micah vi. 6, 8.*

Wash ye, make ye clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes, cease to do evil, learn to do well, seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless,

## EVENING PRAYER. 31

less, plead for the widow. Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. *Isa. i. 16, 17, 18.*

Thus says the Lord God; turn ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways, and your doings good. For as I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way, and live. *Jer. xviii. 11.* and *Ezek. xxxiii. 11.*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. *Psalms li. 17.*

Let us take diligent heed to do the commandments and the laws of God, to love the Lord our God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his statutes, to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all our heart, and with all our soul. *Josh. xxii. 5.*

When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity and dies in them; for his iniquity that he has done, shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turns away from his wickedness, that he has committed, and does that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive: because he considers, and turns away from  
all

32 EVENING PRAYER.

all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. *Ezek. xviii. 26, 27, 28.*

God is a spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. And now is the hour, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to worship him. *John iv. 24, 23.*

*Then let him read as follows.*

**W**E are met together again, to offer up adoration and praise to the most High God, the almighty Creator, and the supreme Lord and Governor of the universe, to celebrate his glorious perfections, and to bless him for his great goodness and loving kindness to the children of men. Let us therefore lift up our heart and soul to praise his holy name.

*Peop.* It is our duty so to do.

*Then let the following Hymn be said by the Minister and People.*

*Minist.* **O** Eternal and glorious Lord our God; we acknowledge with all humility and veneration thy perfect wisdom and goodness, and thy unspeakable power, by which thou hast created all things  
in.



## EVENING PRAYER. 33

in that beauty and order which we behold. Thou art the first cause of all things, who only hast immortality : in whose hands are the souls of every living creature, and whose will and pleasure none can resist.

*Peop.* Thou reignest over all ; and thy greatness and excellency no thought can comprehend.

*Minist.* The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament shows thy power : of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy hand : they shall perish, but thou shalt endure ; yea, all of them shall wax old as a garment, and as a vesture shalt thou fold them, and they shall be changed : but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

*Peop.* Thou art the ever-living God, the first and the last, without beginning, and without end ; even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

*Minist.* Thou art the Creator of angels and men, and every living thing ; the fountain of life and happiness, and the preserver of all thy creatures. The heavens are thine, and all the hosts thereof ; the earth also is thine, and the fulness thereof ; the world, and they that dwell therein. Thou causest thy Sun to shine, and givest thy rain from  
heaven,

## 34 EVENING PRAYER.

heaven, and fruitful seasons; thou renewest the face of the earth, thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and givest food to all flesh.

*Peop.* O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy goodness.

*Minist.* Thou art a God of infinite purity and holiness; immutable and unchangeable; whose wisdom and knowledge is boundless, and from whom no secret can be concealed; who art possessor of every perfection, and art exalted above all blessing and praise. The innumerable hosts of angels continually adore and praise thee, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come; the heavens and the earth are full of thy glory.

*Peop.* Thou art the ever blessed God: in whose presence there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

*Minist.* Thou art just and righteous in all thy ways; yet good and gracious to all thy creatures; long-suffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity upon repentance and amendment of life: who wilt finally judge the world with justice and equity, and wilt then reward the virtuous and obedient with glory, honour and everlasting happiness: but wilt  
punish

# EVENING PRAYER. 53

punish the wicked and disobedient with dreadful and unspeakable misery.

*Peop.* O that every sinner would therefore repent, and amend his ways; for none can deliver out of thy hand, O God.

*Minist.* We bless thee, O Lord, for the revelation both of thy mercy, and of thy justice, that we may thereby learn not to offend thee, but may serve thee with humility and sincerity all our days. But above all, blessed be thy name, for thy Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have redemption, even the forgiveness of our sins, and the cheerful hopes of eternal life.

*Peop.* Therefore will we bless thee, O Lord, and magnify thy name: for thy mercy is unspeakable to the children of men.

*Then let the Minister read as follows.*

**D**Early beloved brethren; since we have been celebrating the perfections and excellency of God; may the due consideration of his greatness and power, his holiness and purity, his righteousness and justice, with a thorough sense of his authority over us, and our constant dependence on him, have their full and proper effect upon us; to convince us of the necessity of an obedient life, to engage us to forsake every sinful course,

## 36 EVENING PRAYER.

and to turn to him with our whole heart: As knowing, that unless we live a godly, righteous and sober life, and improve in those amiable dispositions of holiness and goodness, and in the constant practice of that universal righteousness, which his gospel commands us, all our religious attendance upon him is but use'less and vain. And when we call to mind the errors and imperfections of our past lives, and consider that God is gracious and merciful, ready to forgive, through our Lord Jesus Christ, all that truly repent, and turn to him: let us approach him with a humble and contrite heart, confessing our transgressions, and imploring his pardon, with a firm resolution to amend our ways, and to reform our lives.

### *The General Confession.*

**A**Lmighty and most merciful Lord our God; who art slow to anger, and abundant in goodness; we would approach thee with the sincerest reverence and humility, acknowledging ourselves unworthy of thy goodness and mercy to us: for we have neglected to do those things which thou hast commanded us to do; and have in many instances followed the evil desires and inclinations of our own hearts; and have indulged our

# EVENING PRAYER. 37

our appetites and passions contrary to our reason and better knowledge; and therefore justly deserve to be punished for our transgressions. But blessed be thy name, O Lord, with thee there is forgiveness upon repentance and amendment of life. We therefore would humble ourselves before thee, beseeching thee, according to the greatness of thy tender mercies through Jesus Christ our Lord, to pardon all our iniquities. May thy goodness and long-suffering lead us to true repentance, and engage us to lead a holy, good and righteous life for the time to come. And may thy Holy Spirit guide us into all truth, cause us to understand wherein we have erred, and assist us in our sincere desires and careful endeavours to amend our ways, to purify our minds from every defilement and corrupt desire, and to persevere in one regular and constant course of duty and obedience to thee: that so we may obtain the forgiveness of our past sins, may be delivered from the punishment due to our transgressions, and may inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then let the Minister read a portion of the Psalms, judiciously chosen. And after that, the First Lesson taken out of the Old Testa-*

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*ment,*

# 38 EVENING PRAYER.

*ment, in the same manner. Which ended, let the following Hymn be said by the Minister and People.*

*Minist.* **I**T is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to sing praises unto thy name, O thou most High.

*Peop.* To show forth thy loving kindness in the morning; thy faithfulness every night.

*Minist.* Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous, enter into his courts with praise, be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.

*Peop.* For the Lord is good, his mercy is exceeding great, his truth and faithfulness endure to all generations.

*Minist.* The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

*Peop.* The commandments of the Lord are pure, enlightning the eyes; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

*Minist.* The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil, is understanding.

*Peop.* Therefore blessed is the man that fears the Lord, that delights to walk in his ways.

*Minist.*



## EVENING PRAYER. 39

*Minist.* With my soul have I desired thee,  
O Lord, yea, with my spirit within me  
will I seek thee early.

*Peop.* For I delight to do thy will, yea,  
thy law is within my heart.

*Minist.* Great peace have they that love  
thy law, and nothing shall make them fall.

*Peop.* For thy ways are ways of pleasant-  
ness, and all thy paths are peace.

*Minist.* But woe unto the wicked, it shall  
be ill with him, for the reward of his hands  
shall be given him.

*Peop.* God will judge the wicked accord-  
ing to his deeds, and will recompence him  
according to all his abominations.

*Minist.* Now unto the blessed and only  
potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of  
lords, be honour and power everlasting.

*Peop.* For thou art worthy, O Lord, to  
receive glory, and honour, and power; for  
thou hast created all things, and for thy plea-  
sure they are, and were created.

*Or this.*

*Minist.* **W**H O shall abide in thy taber-  
nacle, O Lord, who shall  
well in thy holy hill?

*Peop.* He that walks uprightly, and works  
righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.

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*Minist.*

40 EVENING PRAYER.

*Minist.* He that backbites not with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbour, nor takes up a reproach against him.

*Peop.* He that has clean hands, and a pure heart, who has not lift up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

*Minist.* Say ye to the righteous, it shall be well with them : for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

*Peop.* They shall receive the blessing of the Lord, and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

*Minist.* Search us, O God, and know our heart ; try us, and know our thoughts : and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us into the way everlasting.

*Peop.* Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently : O that our ways were directed to keep thy statutes !

*Minist.* Then shall we not be ashamed, when we have respect unto all thy commandments.

*Peop.* Teach us thy ways, O Lord, and we will walk in thy paths : incline our hearts to serve thee faithfully.

*Minist.* If thou, Lord, shouldest mark every iniquity, who could stand before thee ? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

*Peop.*

## EVENING PRAYER. 47

*Peop.* Remember not, O Lord, our iniquities; but according to thy great mercies, blot out our transgressions.

*Minist.* Blessed is the man, whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man, to whom the Lord will not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

*Peop.* O how great is thy goodness, O Lord, which thou hast laid up for those that fear thee!

*Minist.* Now to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever.

*Peop.* To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Then let the minister read the Second Lesson taken out of the New Testament, judiciously chosen. And after that let the following exhortations be said by the Minister and People.*

*Minist.* **M**Y brethren, the holy Scriptures command us to commit no murder, to injure no man; and to avoid fornication, adultery and fleshly lusts: for such as do these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Neither may we commit what is another's; but must carefully abstain.

## 42. EVENING PRAYER:

flain from all manner of theft and robbery, and from all fraud and unjust gain: and let there be just weights and measures, for all that do unrighteousness in such things, are an abomination to the Lord.

*Peop.* Woe unto him that builds his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong: that uses his neighbour's service without wages, and gives him not for his work.

*Minist.* A good man shews favour and lends, he will guide his affairs with discretion. He deals his bread to the hungry, and brings the poor that are cast out into his house; when he sees the naked, he cloaths him, and hides not himself from his own flesh. Pure religion, and undefiled before God, is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep one's self unspotted from the world.

*Peop.* Blessed is he that considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble.

*Minist.* Let us not rejoice when our enemy falls, nor if evil comes to him; but love our enemies and do good to them that hate us, that we may be the children of God: for if we forgive men their trespasses, our heavenly Father will also forgive us. Let us then

## EVENING PRAYER. 43

recompence to no man evil for evil; neither be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Peop.* Say not, I will recompence evil; I will do so to him, as he has done to me; I will render to the man, according to his work.

*Minist.* Let us not be proud, nor wise in our own conceits, neither be desirous of vain-glory; but put on meekness and lowliness of mind; for the Lord resists the proud, but gives grace to the meek and humble.

*Peop.* A proud look the Lord hates; and every one that is proud in heart, is an abomination unto him.

*Minist.* Let us abhor what is evil, and cleave to that which is good; and lay aside every weight, and the sin that most easily besets us, and run with patience the race that is set before us; striving to enter in at the straight gate; for straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads unto life.

*Peop.* But wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat.

*Minist.* Let us then not be conformed to this world; but take heed to ourselves, lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with the cares or pleasures of this life: and let us beware of covetousness, for the love of money is the root of all evil.

*Peop.*

#### 44 EVENING PRAYER.

*Peop.* A little that a righteous man has, is better than the riches of many wicked.

*Or this.*

*Minist.* **M**Y brethren, the holy Scriptures exhort us to set our affections on things above, and not on things below; and that we should lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and not upon the earth; assuring us, that where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. Let us therefore not love this world, nor the things of the world; for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, are not of God, but of the world.

*Peop.* And if any one love these things, the love of the Father is not in him.

*Minist.* Let us then be temperate in all things, and live soberly in this world, not in rioting or gluttony; being also contented with our condition, patient under sufferings, walking humbly before God.

*Peop.* Let us take heed to ourselves, lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with surfeiting or drunkenness.

*Minist.* Whether therefore we eat or drink, or whatever we do, let us do all to the glory of God: being fruitful in every good work, abstaining from the appearance of evil, and walking



## EVENING PRAYER. 45

walking worthy of our profession; that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ in all things.

*Peop.* May we amend our ways and our doings, purify our hearts, put away all iniquity from us, and be renewed in the spirit of our minds.

*Minist.* Let us be pure and holy, chaste and modest, abstaining from all uncleanness; and cleansing ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit. Marriage is honourable in all, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

*Peop.* O that men were wise, that they understood these things, that they would consider their latter end!

*Minist.* Let us hold fast our Christian profession without wavering, being stedfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as knowing that our labour shall not be in vain: and let us walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time with all diligence and watchfulness.

*Peop.* Let us consider our ways, and ponder the paths of our feet, and hold fast to that which is good.

*Minist.* Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment,

46 EVENING PRAYER.

judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil; and will render to every one according to his deeds: to those who keep his commandments, and patiently continue in well doing, he will give glory and honour, peace and eternal life.

*Peop.* But all those that do iniquity, shall be cast into a furnace of fire, where the worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched.

*Then let the Minister read the following Prayers.*

**M**OST great and glorious God, who hast commanded us to obey thy holy laws, and hast promised eternal happiness to all that turn from their past iniquities, and serve thee for the time to come with a diligent and upright mind; and hast assured us, that all who will not hearken to, and obey thy commands, shall be punished with unspeakable misery and torments; and hast also graciously promised thy assistance to all those that sincerely endeavour to serve and obey thee: we therefore implore the direction of thy Holy Spirit, to lead us into thy paths, and to assist us in the faithful discharge of every duty. May the consideration of thy great and glorious perfections, and of the reasonableness and fitness of all thy laws, make us love thee the Lord our God  
with

## EVENING PRAYER. 47

with all our heart and soul, fearing to offend thee, and serving thee with a faithful and humble mind. May we also maintain in our hearts, a grateful sense of all thy blessings, and the obligations we are under to thee; and be always ready to make thy will the rule of our actions: that we may be able to look up to thee with gladness, who art the fountain of life, and the author of all happiness; and may rejoice in thee, and put our whole trust in thee, as one who will not leave nor forsake those that love and obey thee.

We also beseech thee to assist us rightly to perform the duties due to our neighbour, that we may love all men, and act at all times with justice and integrity; carefully abstaining from all theft, oppression and extortion, from all manner of fraud and deceit in our dealings with one another, and from every mean and base action. That we may lay aside wrath and anger, ruling our spirits, and bridling our tongues; nor suffer envy nor hatred to harbour in our minds; but may put on gentleness, kindness and compassion, and attain a mild and peaceable disposition; being easy to be intreated, full of mercy and goodness, and endeavouring to live in peace with all men. That we may also be ready and willing chearfully to forgive

## 48 EVENING PRAYER.

forgive all that offend us, and to make the same allowances for their faults, as we desire for our own.

We further intreat thy assistance, that we may truly forsake every wicked way, and every base and sordid pursuit; may avoid both covetousness and extravagance; may keep our passions, appetites and desires in due subjection to our reason, and to thy laws; governing our lives at all times with wisdom and prudence. That we may carefully endeavour to employ our time well, to gain the habits of goodness and virtue, of holiness and purity, abstaining from even the appearance of evil; examining our own hearts and lives, and reforming whatever is amiss in our temper and behaviour. That we may be chaste and modest, carefully avoiding fornication and adultery, and banishing intirely from our breast all unlawful lusts, and every impure desire. And that we may cultivate a meek and quiet spirit, lay aside all pride, vanity and self-conceit, and be sober and temperate in all things, moderating our affections to this world, and setting them upon heavenly things; to which end, may we deny ourselves all the sensual pleasures, which are unworthy our reasonable nature; and place our happiness in imitating thy moral perfections, and in the  
practice

## EVENING PRAYER. 49

practice of every amiable virtue, that we may adorn our Christian profession in all things.

O Lord, who can say, his heart is pure in thy sight; even our best obedience is imperfect: thou searchest and triest the heart, thou requirest truth in the inmost recesses thereof: cleanse thou us from every secret fault, reform thou the inward temper of our minds: may we delight in the practice of our duty, have our will and affections rightly disposed; endeavour always to approve ourselves in thy sight, and to make thy holy and just laws the rule of our lives and actions.

We further beseech thee, O Lord, to extend thy favour to these nations; look down with mercy upon our sins and infirmities, turn from us the evils we deserve, and make us a holy and righteous people. Preserve us from storms and earthquakes, from war, sedition and tumults, from sickness, plague and famine: give us kindly seasons for the producing the fruits of the earth, and may our cattle be healthy and fit for our food and service.

We also humbly intreat thee for all mankind, that thou wouldst make thy ways known unto them, thy truth and salvation unto all nations. Put an end to all idolatry, superstition and persecution for conscience

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sake;

50 EVENING PRAYER.

ake; may thy kingdom come, may true Christianity universally prevail, and may Jew and Gentile be all united under one shepherd, even our Lord Jesus Christ: all which we ask in his name. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for the King and Royal Family.*

**A**Lmighty God, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; we humbly beseech thee to bless with thy favour, thy servant GEORGE our king, to give him health and long life, with happiness and peace; to prosper him in all his righteous undertakings, to be his defender and preserver from every evil, and to give him the victory over all his unjust enemies. Bless him also with wisdom and understanding to govern well; may he seek the good and welfare of the people committed to his care; may he encourage virtue and honesty, and discourage all immorality and vice, endeavour faithfully to discharge the duties of that high station, in which thy Providence has placed him. And may all his subjects love and cheerfully obey him, be faithful to him, and render him that duty and honor, which it becomes them to do. May he also consider, that with thee there is no respect of persons, and that therefore it becomes him to live in thy fear, to obey thy



## EVENING PRAYER. 51

thy laws, and to set an example of holiness and virtue, that whenever it shall please thee to remove him hence, he may be found worthy to obtain eternal life.

Bless also we beseech thee, their Royal Highnesses GEORGE Prince of WALES, the Princess Dowager of WALES, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Royal Family: give them health and long life, with peace and prosperity. May they consider what great influence their examples have upon others, and may they so conduct themselves according to thy laws, that after a life of piety, goodness and virtue here, they may attain to thy heavenly kingdom; which we implore in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for the Clergy and Magistrates.*

**M**OST merciful and gracious God; we beseech thee to bless our bishops and pastors with thy Holy Spirit, to guide them into true knowledge and a right understanding of thy word: may they lead good and blameless lives, and faithfully discharge their duty towards the people committed to their care. May they be lovers of peace and charity; and by the holiness of their lives, and the wisdom of their discourses, be successful in their ministry, to turn sinners from

## 52 EVENING PRAYER.

their evil ways, and to make true religion, righteousness and virtue flourish among us.

We also intreat thee, O Lord, to bless our magistrates and rulers: may they in their several stations study the good and welfare of those that are under them, and judge with patience and equity: may they rule in the fear of the Lord, hating covetousness, relieving the oppressed, discouraging vice, and maintaining peace and order without any respect of persons. [*\* We further*

*\* This is to be read only during the session of Parliament.*

*beseech thee for the high court of Parliament, under our King at this time assembled, that thou wouldst be pleased to direct all their consultations to the general good and safety of these kingdoms, that peace and justice, religion and virtue may flourish among us.]* All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for the performance of relative duties.*

**A**Lmighty God, our heavenly Father; we humbly beseech thee to assist us to perform all those duties, which our particular state and condition in this life requires of us. May the rich and great behave themselves with wisdom and goodness, justice and mercy, humility and temperance, setting  
their

## EVENING PRAYER. 53

their affections on heavenly things, and not on earthly enjoyments, being rich in good works, and remembering that they must one day give an account of the employment, both of their time and riches. And may those that are in low ranks, be cloathed with modesty and humility, avoid sloth and idleness, be diligent in their respective employments, faithful and honest in all things, and contented with that station, in which thy Providence has placed them. May such as are married, be true and faithful to one another, live together in mutual love and friendship, bearing with one another's infirmities, and endeavouring to be a constant support and comfort to each other. May parents love their children, and carefully bring them up in the knowledge of God, in the paths of virtue, and in the regular government of all their passions and desires. And may children attend diligently to their parents instructions, and repay their care and affection with duty and obedience. May masters be gentle to, and careful of their servants, duly paying them their wages, and giving them that which is just and right. And may servants obey their masters, and be diligent, honest and faithful to them. And may all others, in whatever relation they stand to

## 54. EVENING PRAYER.

others, endeavour faithfully and diligently to perform the duties arising from it. Which we humbly ask through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *A Prayer for the afflicted.*

**M**OST merciful and gracious God; we humbly recommend to thy fatherly goodness, all those that are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body or outward circumstances, [*\* particularly those for whom our prayers are desired;*] be-

*\* This is to be said only when any desire their prayers.*

secching thee to provide for those that are poor and in want, to give ease to them that are in pain, and health to the sick; to help such as are in danger, and to deliver those that are tempted, and to aid and assist all thy creatures under every trouble: more especially be with any of thy faithful servants, who are in any manner persecuted for righteousness sake, support them under their afflictions, calm their minds, and enable them to be steady in their duty and obedience to thee; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy deliverance out of all their afflictions. And may every one of us in our several stations, cultivate a kind and compassionate disposition, and assist all that

# EVENING PRAYER. 55

are distressed to the utmost of our power, May we also learn to be patient under whatever troubles thy providence thinks fit to lay upon us, humbling ourselves before thee, and resigning ourselves to thy will, in full assurance of thy fatherly care for us. We ask all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *A General Thanksgiving.*

**O** Most Glorious Lord God Almighty ; thou art worthy to receive glory and praise, who hast created all things by thy power, who governeſt them with unerring wisdom, and provideſt for every living creature out of thy never-ceaſing goodneſs. We bleſs thee for our creation, that thou haſt given us reaſon and underſtanding, haſt made us capable of ſerving thee, and of imitating in ſome meaſure thy glorious perfections. We bleſs thee for thy kind preſervation of us, from the many dangers and evils, to which we have been expoſed, and for all the bleſſings we enjoy, [*\* and particularly for thy goodneſs to thoſe, who deſire now to offer up their praifes and thankſgivings, for thy late mercies granted to them.*] Bleſſed be thy name, O Lord, for every inſtance of thy goodneſs to

*\* This is to be read only when any deſire to return their thanks.*

## 56 EVENING PRAYER.

to us; and especially that thou givest us still more time, to repent of our evil ways, to purify our minds, amend our lives, and acquire those good habits and virtuous dispositions, which are necessary to fit us for thy favour. But above all we desire to praise thee, that after mankind had corrupted their ways, thou wast pleased to give us thy Son Jesus Christ, who came down from heaven to lead us into the way of righteousness and truth, and to redeem us from all iniquity: who also offered himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, that all those who believe in, and obey him, might receive the forgiveness of their iniquities, and inherit eternal life. We bless thee for what he has done and suffered for us; that by him we know that thou art gracious and merciful, and can approach thee with good hopes of finding favour and assistance at all times, according to our necessities. We further bless thee for the light of thy gospel still continued among us, and for our deliverance from popery, superstition and slavery: many a time has the Lord been on our side, and rescued us, when no other arm could save us. May such a sense of thy mercy and goodness dwell upon our minds, as may bring forth their proper fruits, by a life of holiness, thankful-

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## EVENING PRAYER. 57

ness and obedience : which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *The concluding Prayer.*

**A**Lmighty and everlasting God ; who hast given us liberty at this time, to make our humble supplications unto thee : hear thou from heaven, the habitation of thy glory, the desires and petitions of thy servants : preserve us from the power and malice of the devil, from the evil designs of wicked men, and from every danger to which we are exposed ; and grant us those things which thou knowest to be needful and fitting for us, in such proportion as may be most conducive to our eternal welfare. Graciously accept of our praises and thanksgivings, and forgive whatever thou hast seen amiss in our conduct before thee. And as we are imperfect beings, too often apt to be turned aside by various temptations ; mercifully assist us, O Lord, to overcome the trials of this life ; may we clearly perceive the great excellency, and the necessity of religion and virtue, so that no temptation may turn us from them ; and may be truly sensible of the mischief and fatal consequences of vice, that we may forsake it with the greatest detestation and abhorrence. And  
grant



## 58 EVENING PRAYER.

grant that by the influence of thy holy Spirit, our minds may be strengthened with such firm resolutions, as may preserve us from every snare, and carry us safely through this state. May pure religion have its full and proper effect upon us, to engage us in a chearful and constant obedience to thy commands, that we may become like unto thee our God, in the love and practice of universal righteousness and goodness, and thereby be fitted for that heavenly state, which thou hast provided for those, who in the temper of their minds, and the course of their lives, resemble thee. Which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our only mediator, through whom we approach thee, as,

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; may thy kingdom come; may thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: give us day by day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**T**HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

T H E



# THE HOMILIES,

To be read in their order, one at a time, in the Morning or Evening service, when there is no sermon.

## The First HOMILY.

*On our duty to God.*



SINCE God is the author of our being, and our constant preserver; and all that we enjoy we receive from him; and is also the supreme governor of all his rational creatures: we are under the strictest obligations to a steady obedience to all his laws: it therefore highly becomes us carefully to consider what are the duties he has commanded. For the great day of judgment will

will come, when every one shall be condemned or approved, according to his actions and behaviour in this life : and will then be either thrown into a state of inexpressible misery and torment, or be admitted into the regions of everlasting peace and happiness.

If therefore we would obtain the favour of God, we must in the first place, not only believe that he is, but that he is also the rewarder of all those that diligently seek him. And in consequence of that belief, we must fear and reverence him, as the greatest and most powerful being, and walk humbly before him : being careful never to prophane his holy name by false swearing, nor to use it irreverently in our common discourse. We must also hate and detest all idolatry, or the paying an honour to pictures or images of wood or stone ; or even to the angels themselves, but we must worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, and him only must we serve. We must further consider God as gracious and merciful, and fix in our minds a grateful sense of his goodness to us, who is our Creator, our constant benefactor, and the giver of every blessing : and therefore it is our duty to love him with all our heart, our soul and strength, and to walk before him with a perfect heart and a willing mind

mind, endeavouring to imitate him in all his moral perfections. And while we are thus inwardly affected towards God, it becomes us also to take all proper opportunities of expressing the grateful sense of our minds, by frequently addressing our selves to him, both in private and public worship; not forgetting to assemble ourselves together, that with one heart and one mind we may join in acknowledging his glorious perfections and excellency, and our constant dependance upon him; glorifying him in all things, and offering up our praises and thanksgivings for all his goodness and mercy to us; with humble petitions for a supply of all our wants, both temporal and spiritual; making our prayers and supplications to him, in the name of Jesus Christ our only mediator. We must further put our trust in him, as in one, who will not forsake those, that humbly depend and rely upon him. And since he is not only good, but likewise possessest of perfect wisdom, we should always submit our selves patiently to his will, without murmurings or repinings, and resign our selves to the dispensations of his providence towards us. We must also show the sincerity of our regard to him, by a real and unfeigned repentance of all our

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sins;

sins, with a firm resolution to conform our lives for the time to come to his laws, and to obey all his commands without the least hypocrisy or reserve. Lastly, we ought deeply to impress upon our minds, his exceeding great love, in sending his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to lead us into the way of truth, to direct us into the paths of eternal life, and to suffer and die for us : and should therefore readily comply with the positive institutions of christianity, to wit, baptism, and the thankful remembrance of our blessed Saviour at his supper, according to his appointment.

Now both the reasonableness and necessity of our performing these duties, and acquiring these dispositions and habits, will plainly appear ; if we consider that God is possesse of unbounded and irresistible power ; that he is a being of strict and impartial justice ; who will finally judge all men, and render to every one according to his works : and that he requires of us as intire and complete an obedience as we are able to perform ; because the wilful disobedience of any one of his righteous laws, unrepented of, would, if passed over without punishment, defeat the ends of his wise and just government : for all his commands tend only to promote

promote the happiness of the whole creation ; so if we carefully attend to it, we shall find that any one vice, if let alone and indulged, would have the most fatal consequences ; and that the happiness of the whole is only attainable by an universal regard to all the divine precepts. The serious consideration of these things will show us the necessity of paying a constant submission to the will of God, with a strict obedience to all his laws, and will fill us with such an awful sense of his supreme majesty, as will excite us to the greatest care, and watchfulness over our selves, to a constant endeavour to please him in all things, and by no means in any thing to offend him : since none can deliver out of his hand.

Further, as in God we live, and move, and have our being ; as he is present every where, and continually with us, knowing all our thoughts, words and actions ; and is himself of unspotted purity and holiness ; these things should teach us to purify our minds from all manner of vice and folly, to reform our thoughts and designs, to govern and regulate our passions, appetites and desires, and to behave ourselves always piously and wisely ; acting at all times, and on all occasions, as sensible of his continual presence, and re-



membring that he is now the witness, who will hereafter be the judge, of all our actions.

Moreover, as God is not only the author of our being, but also our constant benefactor; who is truly good, and directs that goodness by the greatest wisdom; who is the giver of every blessing of this life, and on whom all our future hopes and expectations are placed; and who has assured us by our Lord Jesus Christ, that he will graciously pardon all our past offences, on our sincere repentance and humiliation, joined with a real amendment of our lives: these things should inspire us with the highest sentiments of love and reverence to him, and with the sincerest returns of thankfulness and obedience. And when we further consider, that all his laws are fit and reasonable, and that the compliance with them only tends to make us both happy here, and to fit us for the blessed mansions of everlasting peace hereafter; how ready and willing should we be to comply therewith, to delight in the practice of our duty, and to make his will the rule of our actions?

Lastly, as God is the most wise and perfect being, true and faithful to his promises, eternal and unchangeable, whose kind and secret providence continually attends upon all men



men, but more especially upon those who love and obey him ; who also hears our prayers, and will either deliver his faithful servants, or else support them under all their afflictions here : these considerations should engage us to apply our selves to him in prayer and supplication, to implore his guidance and protection, to put our hope and trust in him, and with all humility and patience to commit ourselves to him under all our troubles, in full assurance that every affliction we meet with, is kindly designed, either to reform or improve us ; and will finally turn to our everlasting advantage, if we behave ourselves well under it.

Let us therefore cultivate all those dispositions, which we know to be acceptable to God. For he only is his true and faithful servant, who out of a just sense of his sovereign authority, conforms all his actions to his will ; and who, from a thorough conviction of the wisdom and equity of the divine government, conducts himself with an humble and regular submission to his laws.

## The Second HOMILY.

*On our duty to our Neighbour.*

**A**S our blessed Lord and Saviour has assured us, that the first and great commandment is to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, our soul and mind: so he has also declared, that the second, which requires us to love our neighbour as our selves, is like unto it: and accordingly has obliged all his followers to be very careful to do to all men, as they would have others do to them. How diligent then ought we to be, to fulfil all the obligations, which a law so just and reasonable lays us under, and on which the happiness of all social beings depends?

In the first place therefore, we must not commit any murder, adultery, nor fornication, but carefully guard against every tendency to them: neither must we bear false witness against, nor accuse any one falsely, nor slander another: nor be guilty of theft, or robbery either in great or small matters; but all these things should be our greatest abhorrence. We must also not hurt, vex or afflict any one, nor do the least wrong or injury: but hate all manner of violence, oppression;

pression and extortion, all fraud and unjust gain, and every mean art of cheating or over-reaching another: and let the weights and measures be always just, for all that do unrighteously in such things are an abomination to the Lord; and if any one has in any thing defrauded another, he is obliged to make restitution. And the more effectually to prevent any tendency to these crimes, we are commanded to be contented with such things as we have, and not to covet what is another's; but to be just and righteous, honest and upright in all our dealings; and to put away all falsehood from us, speaking the truth in sincerity and uprightness, and laying aside all guile and hypocrisy; for lying lips are an abomination to the Lord; and besides, he that deceives another by a lie, should consider, that he will not be easily believed another time, even when he speaks the truth. We must also avoid all flattery to one another, for flattering lips and a double tongue, the Lord hates.

We must further avoid strife and contention, and put away from us a froward mouth and perverse lips: and let passion, ill language and bitterness of speech, with all unbecoming heats, (more especially upon trifling occasions,) be intirely banished from us;

us; remembring that he that is angry with his brother without a cause, is in danger of the judgment: and that he who bridles not his tongue, deceives his own heart, and his religion is vain. Nor must we at any time suffer even our just anger to lie kindling in our breasts, lest it grow up to resentment and hatred, malice and revenge: but, we must be slow to anger, and easily appeased, not suffering the sun to go down upon our wrath.

We are further oblig'd by our Saviour's laws to love our neighbour as ourselves: it is therefore our duty to improve in every kind affection and benevolent disposition towards all men; to restrain all selfishness and covetousness, and to be truly good and generous. We must consider one another as brethren, and behave our selves in a friendly and becoming manner to all men, without haughtiness or pride: for a proud look the Lord hates, and every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to him. We must also lay aside all moroseness and peevishness, and attain a mild and peaceable disposition; being gentle and courteous, easy to be intreated, and full of mercy; nor take pleasure in speaking evil of any man; and endeavour to give no offence, but to live peaceably

ably with all men: overlooking the faults and failings of one another, showing mercy and compassion every man to his brother, and helping every one that wants our assistance in any way, with all chearfulness and readiness of mind: to the attaining of all which excellent dispositions, a wise and regular government of our own passions and desires, will greatly contribute.

We are also obliged by the common principles of reason and humanity, to extend our mercy and goodness, even to all the brute part of God's creation: and the sacred scriptures have made it the mark, as well as duty of a good man to be merciful to his beasts: who therefore will by no means load them with too great burdens, nor punish them with severity, nor withhold from them the necessary food, rest and refreshment, which their condition and labour require: and more especially, will not use any living creature with the least cruelty, nor afflict it in any degree, without a good and reasonable cause: and when we kill them, it should not be wantonly or cruelly, but upon just occasions, and with as little pain to them as we can.

We are further commanded to extend our love and kindness to our enemies, nor to rejoice

joyce when evil comes upon them: but to  
bless them that curse us, to do good to them  
that hate us, and to pray for them that de-  
spitefully use us, and persecute us; that we  
may be children of God, and imitate him,  
who is kind and merciful even to the evil,  
and the unthankful. We must therefore  
recompense to no man evil for evil, but  
freely forgive all that injure us; being long-  
suffering, forbearing one another in love,  
and not taking upon us to censure or con-  
demn others; for with what judgment we  
judge, we shall be judged, and with what  
measure we mete to others, it shall be mea-  
sured to us again. Moreover, since we are  
every one of us guilty of many faults, too  
apt to offend both God and our neighbour;  
and since God is always ready to make gra-  
cious allowances for our failings; these con-  
siderations should the more effectually incline  
us, to exercise all that mercy and forgive-  
ness to those that any ways offend us, which  
we would desire should be shown to our  
selves in like cases; and by no means to mag-  
nify their faults, but easily to excuse their  
offences, and impute them to the same  
thoughtlessness, want of consideration or ig-  
norance, which we often find to be the case  
in our selves: always remembering how much

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our own happiness is concerned in such a conduct, as being assured by our Lord and master, that if we forgive others, we shall be forgiven; but that if we forgive not those that trespass against us, God will not forgive us our trespasses.

It is indeed our duty to exhort one another to good works, to instruct the ignorant, to endeavour to turn a sinner from the errors of his ways, and to admonish and reprove our brother, and not suffer sin to be upon him: but these things are to be done with meekness and gentleness, endeavouring to convince and persuade him in the spirit of love, of the necessity of self-government, and of a holy, good and virtuous life: and we are therefore directed to withdraw from the hardened and the scornful, lest without any prospect of doing good, we hurt our own minds.

Lastly, let us be truly good, kind and beneficent to all men, rejoicing in their prosperity and happiness; and not suffer any envy, or secret repinings to harbour in our breast; but let us live in love and peace with all men; behaving ourselves always with meekness and humility; that we may attain those blessed dispositions and habits which will fit us for those heavenly mansions of love and peace, where



where nothing that offends or defiles, will be permitted to enter.

## The Third HOMILY.

### *On the Relative Duties.*

**H**AVING in some former discourses considered our obligations to God, and likewise those which we owe to our neighbour in general: we now come to treat of those other duties which we owe to one another; arising from the different conditions and various relations, that providence has thought fit men should stand in to each other; and by the regular performance whereof, the peace, order and harmony of society is maintained.

Let princes, nobles, and all that are in authority consider themselves as exalted to those high stations for the good of their fellow creatures; and that therefore they are obliged to study the interest and welfare of those that are under them; to set an example of strict obedience to the laws they make, and to be just and honest themselves, diligent and faithful in the discharge of the duties of their several stations, ruling in the fear of the Lord, and avoiding sloth, luxury and vanity, knowing their example is of great influence

to all about them. Let them also judge with patience and equity, hating covetousness and corruption, relieving the oppressed, discouraging vice, and maintaining peace and good order, without any respect of persons.

Let subjects honour the king, and cheerfully obey all that are in authority over them: nor endeavour to evade the force of the laws by any art or cunning: but without any murmuring, render tribute, custom and honour to whom they are due.

Let the ministers of the gospel be faithful and diligent in the discharge of their duty towards the people committed to their care; living holily and unblameably as examples to their flock: being just, sober and temperate, not covetous or greedy of lucre: not self-will'd, nor soon angry, but gentle unto all men, ready to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; rebuking and exhorting sinners with all longsuffering; and strengthening and confirming the good and faithful.—And let their people remember them that labour among them in holy things, and esteem and love them for their works sake, and diligently attend to their religious instructions: let also him that is taught in the word, give unto him that

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teaches;

teaches; for so has the Lord ordained, that they which preach the Gospel, should live by it, and the labourer is worthy of his reward.

Let marriage be a state of Christian friendship, and mutual comfort and assistance: let each party bear with one another's infirmities; and study to help and please each other, which is the foundation and support of all domestic happiness: let them likewise be true and faithful to each other. Let the husband love his wife, even as himself, being truly kind and affectionate to her. And let the wife see, that she loves and reverences her husband, and is in subjection to him: being of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great value.

Let parents love their children, and be kind and gentle to them, yet at the same time keeping them in due subjection; bringing them up in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, teaching them to observe his commandments, and carefully training them up in the paths of virtue, and in the wise and regular government of their appetites and passions; being also themselves very careful to set their children a good example. Let them likewise provide for their children, cultivate and improve their minds, and bring them

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them up in such industry and bodily labour, as their circumstances in life require, and as their tender ages will admit of: lest when they grow up, they be exposed to every temptation, through idleness, effeminacy and want of employment. Let children also learn to behave with decency and modesty; and to obey their parents; for this is well pleasing to the Lord: honouring them, attending diligently to their instructions, and paying the just returns of love and gratitude.

May the universities, and all our public and private schools for the education of youth, think it not sufficient only to instruct those that are committed to their care in useful learning and knowledge; but may they further consider, that it becomes them more especially to take care of their moral conduct; to teach them to be sober and virtuous, to be strictly just and honest in all things, true to their word, and obedient to their superiors: as knowing that their future life and manners greatly depend upon the foundation laid in their younger years: and that they themselves will be answerable for it, if they neglect to instruct them in these things which are of the greatest moment.

Let masters and mistresses be gentle and careful of their servants, and not rule with

rigour; but give unto them that which is just and equal, forbearing threatning, knowing that they likewise have a master in heaven, neither is there any respect of persons with him. Let them also pay their servants and work-people the wages due to them: for woe unto him that uses his neighbour's service without wages, and gives him not for his work, or detains it from him any time. Let them also be careful both by their own good example, and by their own kind and prudent instructions to assist and improve their servants in the knowledge of God, and in the practice of true religion and virtue, after the excellent example of *Abraham* and *Joshua*\*; that they also with themselves may be fitted for eternal happiness. And let servants be obedient to their masters and mistresses, diligent in their service, with all faithfulness and honesty, and endeavour to please them, not with eye-service only, as men-pleasers, but in truth and singleness of heart, as fearing God.

Let such as have the riches of this world, be careful to spend them wisely and charitably, remembring that they must one day give an account of their disposal of them:

\* Gen. xviii. 19. Joshua xxiv. the end of the 15th verse.

ich is let them not therefore heap up wealth un-  
now- profitably, nor spend it in luxury and vani-  
hea- ty, or in the encouragement of vice and fol-  
rsons ly : but let them consider that the pleasures  
vants of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches  
nem: often choak the word of God, and render it  
our's unfruitful. And since it has pleased God  
not to place men in various states and conditions  
any in this life, for the exercise of different vir-  
their tues ; let not the rich despise the poor, nor  
kind the great ones of this world despise those that  
rove are in low estate : but let every one accord-  
God, ing to what he has, be rich in good works,  
vir- ready to distribute to the necessities of others ;  
bra- more especially by employing those poor  
em- who are able to work, in useful labour,  
efs. without exacting too much of them, or  
ters taking advantage from their necessities to  
with oppress them ; and in relieving the wants  
to of the sick and lame, the infants and aged :  
as remembring, that whosoever has this world's  
of goods, and sees his brother has need, and  
d, shuts up his bowels of compassion from him,  
a- how dwells the love of God in him ? They  
ay ought likewise to do good with a willing  
r: and a chearful mind, being affable and con-  
h descending in their behaviour, and careful to  
t avoid all ostentation, or the doing it from  
any mean motive, as looking for their re-



ward from God alone. Let those also who are in the middle stations and conditions of life, take a constant delight in doing good, that so they may get the habits of love and compassion; which excellent dispositions will teach them to retrench many useless expences, and spend both their time and money in acts of benevolence, which are too often laid out in pleasure and vanity, in luxury of dress, grandeur and high living, (if not in excess of rioting and drunkenness) but might much more usefully be employed to their own eternal advantage.

Let also those that are poor, be faithful, honest and just in all things, and not insolent nor murmuring, but modest and humble, thankful to their benefactors, and having food and raiment, and the necessities of this life, be contented therewith: neither must they be slothful or idle, but labour diligently at their employments, lest they be tempted to steal: neither are they excused from helping and assisting one another, in whatever way they can.

Let therefore all men carefully endeavour so to perform the duties of their several stations here, that when the great day of judgment comes, they may be able to deliver up their accounts with joy, and may receive  
from



from their Lord and judge, that most comfortable and reviving sentence: Well done ye good and faithful servants, inherit the kingdom prepared for you: which God grant to us all, through Jesus Christ.

### The Fourth HOMILY.

*On the Duties which regard ourselves.*

**A**S we are under the highest obligations of love, reverence and obedience to God, and of doing to all men, as we would desire they should do to us: so also we are obliged to use the greatest diligence in the government of our own selves; without which we are utterly incapable of performing the other duties. To this end, we must be sober and temperate, and govern our passions and appetites, by reason and the laws of God. For as God is a being of perfect wisdom and rectitude of will, so he expects, and has made it our duty to imitate him in all his moral perfections; which therefore calls for our utmost care. For when we consider on the one hand, that God requires of us an universal obedience to all his laws, with a constant perseverance in it; that we must go on from one degree of holiness to another, and endeavour to be perfect in our station,

station, even as our heavenly father is perfect; that we must strive to enter in at the straight gate, and give all diligence to make our calling and election sure; being stedfast and immoveable, not weary in well-doing, remembring that he only that endures to the end shall be saved: and when we consider on the other hand, our own imperfections, the temptations of this life, and the difficulties and discouragements which attend us in pursuing our christian course: we must plainly perceive what care and watchfulness of our selves, and what sincere prayers for divine aid are necessary to enable us to perform such important duties. How careful ought we to be in reading and studying the holy scriptures, and in examining our hearts and lives by the word of God, to learn to know our selves, and what is required of us, and thereby to correct and amend whatever is faulty in our temper and conduct, and to persevere in a regular and constant practice of every amiable virtue? And whenever (notwithstanding all our care) we fall into any sin, we must repent of our folly, humble our selves before God, and with double diligence watch over our selves, that we may not fall into the same again: and as every one of us have generally some one or  
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more predominant vices, which we are most liable to fall into, either from our natural dispositions, or acquired habits, we must take care more particularly to guard against those sins, which most easily beset us. For the rooting out of any vicious habit, is a work of time, and calls for the continued exercise of all our faculties. And the introducing into our minds the contrary dispositions, notwithstanding the opposition of custom and evil habits, requires our utmost diligence and care. Neither must we be discouraged by our weakness, nor let our failings and imperfections dispirit us; but we must still persevere, and redouble our care, till at last we have got the better of them and are become truly conquerors.

In order to attain this perfection, which the christian religion requires of us; it is in the first place necessary for us to have right and just notions of our own selves; to consider that we are imperfect beings, too apt to be turned aside from our duty by various temptations, and to be misled by passion and prejudice, by ignorance and folly: and that therefore it becomes us to possess our minds with a humble and modest sense of our own selves, and to be cloathed with a meek and lowly

lowly spirit, laying aside all pride and vain conceit, all arrogance and foolish boastings. And let us think soberly of our selves, as knowing, that the best of us have still many secret corruptions within him, and that even our best obedience is imperfect: wherefore God declares, he takes delight in those that are of a meek and humble spirit, but that every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to him. Neither must we be desirous of praise and vain-glory, for a modest and good man is content with doing well, thereby approving himself to God, without seeking the applause of men.

We must likewise be patient under every affliction, not apt to be discomposed at every disagreeable event, nor impatient under any greater trials, which God may think fit to lay upon us; knowing that in the end they will work out for us an exceeding degree of glory: we must not therefore let the frowns or terrors of this world, either reproach, adversity or persecution, make us give up our faithful and steady obedience to God; nor suffer it's allurements and vanities, the love of riches, honour or power, to intice and seduce us to part with our integrity: but we must take up our cross, and follow our blessed Saviour's

Saviour's example; for he only that overcomes the trials and temptations, to which he is exposed in this life, shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.

We must also be holy, without which no man can see God; and be chaste and modest in our thoughts and actions, and suffer no corrupt or unclean discourse to proceed out of our mouth: but hate all lasciviousness, fornication and adultery, with every impure desire, and unlawful pleasure: for all these things are highly unsuitable to our most holy religion, to a virtuous temper of mind; and will deprive us of the favour of God.

We must likewise be sober and temperate in all things, without luxury, gluttony or drunkenness; and use great moderation in all our pleasures, and in every enjoyment of this life; as christians, whose perfection and happiness do not consist in sensual enjoyments, but in those which are spiritual: and the gaieties and follies, nay even the innocent amusements of this world, when too much indulged, and too often repeated, are apt to sink and debase the mind, to fill it with a trifling levity, and unfit it for the performance of the important and necessary duties of this life. Let also the inward humility of

our minds appear in the modesty and decency of our outward behaviour, of our dress and apparel; without pride and vanity, without the love of pomp and show, or the desire of emulating others: and let us follow no fashion or custom that is inconsistent with modesty; but set a good example to all around us; for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are utterly inconsistent with the love of God.

We must further endeavour wisely to regulate all our passions and affections, to bring them under a due command, and rightly to direct and govern them, by the rules of reason and religion; to bridle our tongues, to be slow to anger, and to rule our own spirit; keeping our bodies in subjection, and denying our selves, yet maintaining a cheerful and contented spirit. We must also hate every wicked way, turn away from every sin, and follow no one to do what is evil: but cleanse our selves from all pollution of the flesh and spirit, and let our religion be sincere and unaffected, without inward guile and hypocrisy, or vain ostentation and show: endeavouring to walk worthy of our profession, and to adorn the doctrine of Christ in all things: being harmless, and without blame,



blame, the children of God, keeping our selves unspotted from the world, and abstaining from even the appearance of evil; as knowing that we wrestle not only with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers of darkness. We must therefore take heed to our selves, and walk circumspectly, redeeming the time, and watch and pray that we fall not into temptation; not being slothful, but diligent, not luke-warm, but zealous to promote whatever is praise-worthy and excellent. But at the same time we ought to take great care, that our passions have no undue influence upon us, that while we think we are in the pursuit of one virtue, we do not break in upon the practice of another: nor suffer on the one hand a mistaken love of God, and zeal for religion, to make us uncharitable or severe to our neighbour, from whom we may happen to differ; remembring we have all of us one lawgiver and judge, by whom we our selves are also to be judged: but we must treat him with that love and forbearance, that mercy and compassion, which we would desire to be treated with, by those who differ from us: nor on the other hand must we permit our partial fondness for our neighbour,

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bour, to break in upon our steady regard to God, or make us neglect our duty to him; but we must pay an universal obedience to all his laws, and strive to perform our whole duty both to God and to one another; endeavouring after our own perfection, with all long-suffering and forbearance to others.

We must also every one of us avoid all loose and criminal conversation, and be very careful what company we keep, and the persons with whom we are intimate, for evil communication corrupts good manners. Wherefore if sinners entice us, let us not consent, but refrain our feet from their paths, neither desire to be with them; lest we learn their ways, and get a snare to our souls. For whoever gives himself up to the society of the ungodly and vicious, will quickly be lost to all virtue and goodness, and will too soon become like the company he chooses. Therefore all men should endeavour, in their several stations, to encourage religion, righteousness and virtue, and to discourage vice and prophaneness.

Lastly, we should be careful every one of us, to employ our time well, improving in useful and worthy knowledge, and avoiding idleness,

idleness, which is the foundation of folly and wickedness. Let such as are engaged in any business and employment, be diligent in it, that with the blessing of God, they may be enabled both to provide for themselves and families, and to do good to others: and let such as have leisure from labour and domestic cares, more particularly endeavour to employ that time which providence gives them, in improving their own minds, and being useful to others. And let all of us be contented with our condition, reject all base and sordid views, and not be covetous, nor greedy of heaping up riches: for a man's happiness consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses; and the love of money is the root of many evils, and they that will be rich, fall into great snares and temptations, which prevent their progress in the christian virtues. Neither let any of us be overcharged with the cares or pleasures of this world, but let our behaviour and conversation in all things here, be such as becomes the doctrine of Christ; setting our affections upon things above, and endeavouring to acquire all those blessed dispositions and habits, which will fit us for the favour of God. For they that refuse to do his will  
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here, and are disobedient and wicked, shall be thrown into that state of inexpressible misery, prepared for the devil and his angels, where the worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched, and shall be punished there with dreadful and unspeakable torments: while they who obey the laws of God here, shall gain his approbation, whose favour is only to be valued or sought; and shall be admitted to the glory of God, in whose presence there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

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